

Remarks

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks. Claims 1-7, 9, 11, 21 and 22 are pending in the application. Claims 8, 10, and 12-20 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 21-30 are new.

Patentability of Claim 9 under § 112

Claims 9 has rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite for including the phrase “or the like.” This phrase has been removed. Applicants now believe that the claim is in condition for allowance and ask that the rejection be removed.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 8, 10, and 12-20 have been cancelled without prejudice to expedite issuance of a patent on the subject matter of allowable claim 10, as discussed below. Applicants reserve the right to present the cancelled claims in a continuation of the present application.

In the Action mailed July 14, 2006, the Office indicates that claim 10 is allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of its base claim (1), and intervening claim (8). Claim 1 has been rewritten as requested to include all of the limitations of claims 8 and 10. Claim 1 should therefore be considered allowable. Claims 2-7, 9, and 11 all depend from allowable claim 1 and therefore should be allowed.

New claims 21 and 30 recite the same language as allowable claim 1, except that they are written in alternate claim formats drawn to a separate statutory category (i.e., machine) under 35 U.S.C. § 101. New claims 22-29 depend from allowable claim 21, and so should themselves be allowable. All pending claims therefore should be considered allowable.

Objection to the Specification

The Action objects to the specification because of the following informality—the abbreviation “LIFO” is referred to as last-in last-out. The specification has been modified so that LIFO is described as “last-in first-out.” Thus, applicants respectfully request that you remove this objection.

Conclusion

The claims in their present form should now be allowable. Such action is respectfully requested.

Request for Interview

If any issues remain, the Examiner is formally requested to contact the undersigned attorney prior to issuance of the next correspondence in order to arrange a telephonic interview. It is believed that a brief discussion of the merits of the present application may expedite prosecution. Applicants submit the foregoing formal Amendment so that the Examiner may fully evaluate Applicants' position, thereby enabling the interview to be more focused.

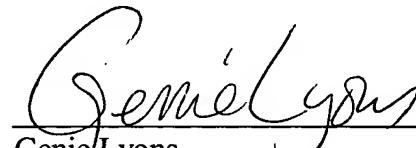
This request is being submitted under MPEP § 713.01, which indicates that an interview may be arranged in advance by a written request.

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